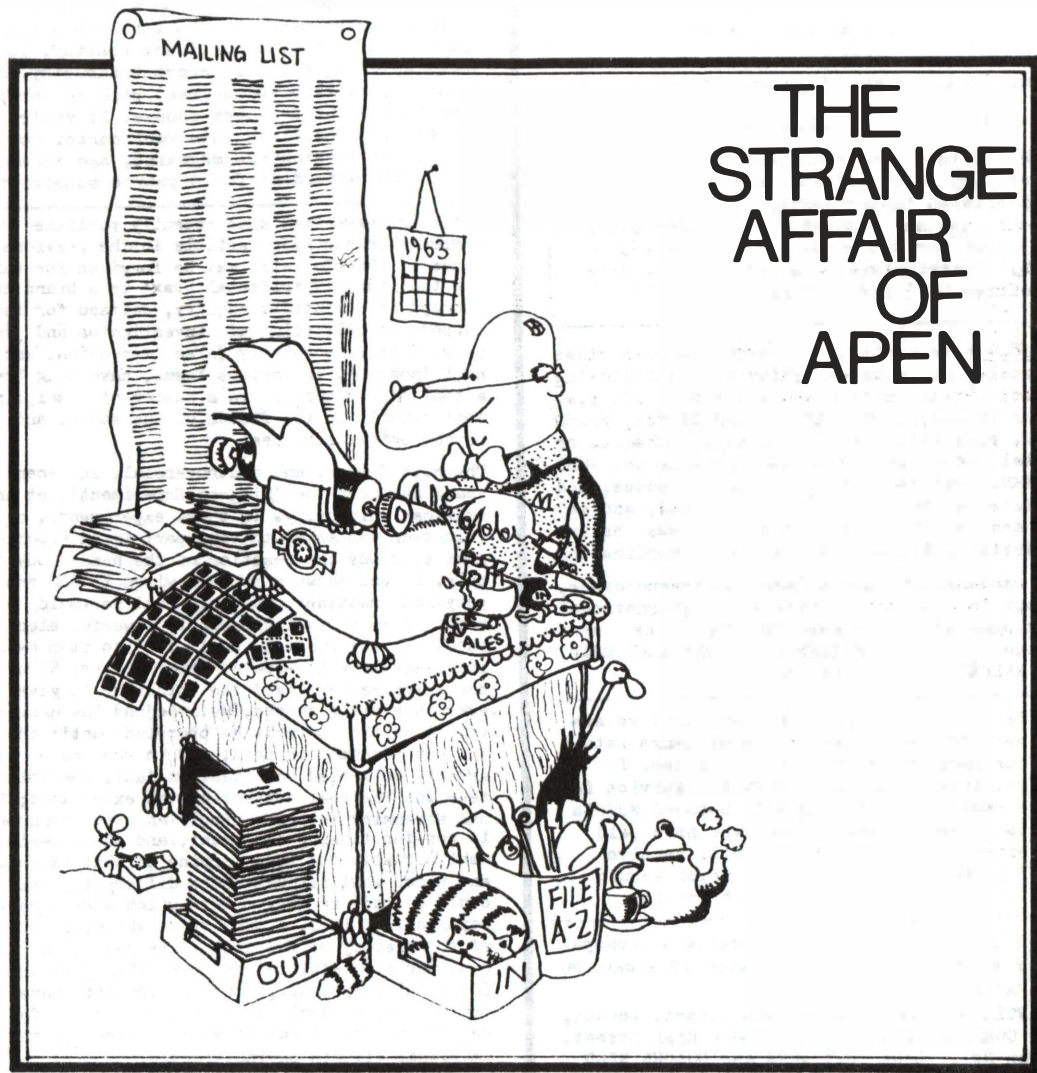


# MUF06

NEW SERIES 3

SUMMER 1976



# MUF0B

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John Harney, Peter Rogerson, Roger Sandell.

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## EDITORIAL NOTES



General reaction to our new format has been favourable, although more mixed to the contents therein (See Letters, page 6). It now seems very hopeful that MUF0B will continue to be litho printed for the foreseeable future. Our financial position, if not healthy, is at least hovering a little above bankruptcy. As we said last time we now need paid subscriptions to keep up a steady income. If you're on our gratis list, look into your conscience if you're not an exchange magazine, and consider if you can afford £1 for a year's subscription.

Those who have read some recently published comments on the major article in the previous issue of this Bulletin may be forgiven for thinking that the 'experimental hoax' is a brand new concept in scientific enquiry, devised for the purpose of belittling ufo investigators and journals. This is a totally false impression, and such 'hoaxes', in various forms, have long been a tool of researchers in a number of disciplines most notably in the fields of the social and psychological sciences.

The most famous, and controversial, in recent years has been the 'Milgram Experiment', at an American university. In these experiments, a volunteer was asked to take part in an experiment to study the reaction of the human body to pain. He was shown a subject wired to EEG and polygraph machines, and told that he would be required to apply increasingly powerful electric shocks to the subject, until told to stop by an impressively white-coated experimenter. However, the experimenter urged the volunteer to give ever-increasing shocks, well beyond the danger levels on the controls he operated, until the subject screamed in pain, and in some cases apparently collapsed and died. In fact, the volunteer was the real subject of the experiment; the man screaming in agony simply an actor strapped to non-functioning equipment, and the experiment actually one to determine to what extent, and under what circumstances different people could be made to obey orders which were morally repugnant to them. A subject on which, in view of the history of the last forty years, one may consider it useful to have more than just anecdotal data! Naturally, these experiments have caused a great deal of controversy, going far beyond the normal run of such 'hoaxes' in their emotional effects on individuals.

Continued on page 61

Håkan Blomqvist

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## THE STRANGE AFFAIR OF APEN

JENNY RANOLIS

The UFO phenomenon is filled with complexities. Nobody really knows what is, and what is not, relevant to the overall mystery. What is clear is that we cannot afford to reject anything which might have a possible bearing on the eventual solution. This is true no matter how strange, or innocuous, this something might appear. In the field of contactee experiences it is now reasonably clear that all stories cannot be accepted at face value, but to reject them all out of hand would be equally foolish. It would appear that there is an element of deception about, be it perpetrated by alien intelligences or not. This has to be taken into account nowadays in all dealings with the UFO phenomenon.

Readers of Flying Saucer Review will be well acquainted with the long drawn out saga of the 'Mysterious UMMO Affair' (1). Regardless of what one might feel of these reports concerning alien intelligences depositing documentary evidence on peoples' doorsteps by the totally terrestrial instrument of the postal services, it is important to note that this is not the only affair of its kind going on. In this country we have something similar, which whilst not going to the technological lengths which the UMMO personnel appear to, makes up for this with other strange attributes. This agency, whatever it may be, refers to itself as the Ariel Phenomenon Enquiry Network - or APEN.

As I write these lines contact with this 'organisation' has been going on for over two years, since the Spring of 1974. Although great amounts of correspondence has been sent to various 'contactees', never once has an address been given. Rather APEN hide behind innuendo and falsified names, covered by a bravado of brash statements concerning their aims and abilities.

APEN claims to be a UFO organisation on a world wide basis. They say that their membership is by invitation only. However, none of the dozen or so names, and voices on tape, which have been handed about, are familiar in any UFO context whatsoever. The organisation makes quite clear that it functions according to the ideals of the German Nazi party. They use complex methods of coding, have 'Supreme Commanders', issue directives to Agents, and in often comical cross-correspondence battle

with one another about the execution of various 'orders' without further question. They also emblazon their documents with official seals, introduce tape recorded speeches with trumpet calls and German war broadcasts. They have also gone to the point of circulating to various people an article (on the theme of CIA cover-up operations) which they say comes from their magazine Pfeilspitze - German for 'Spearhead'.

Contact began very slowly with a trickle of letters, which at first claimed that they would reveal themselves in due course, and that they were in favour of local UFO groups co-operating. Interestingly, this was at the time when MUFON (Northern UFO Network) was a matter of days old, and was working towards this ideal. So far as is known, over the intervening years only groups within the MUFON system have been contacted, plus one or two individuals.

This is obviously an important fact to bear in mind. Certainly APEN have been selective in whom they approach. Not all groups have been contacted, though a large percentage have, and it would seem that their current aim is to widen the scope of their approaches. Generally contact takes place by means of letter. This is normally a short statement claiming that this, that, or the other, will be forwarded in due course, and enclosing photo-copies of newspaper articles (usually quite well-known ones) "for your group files". Normally the information is quite meaningless and banal.

On occasion there have been attempts at more close contact. One document was distributed which claimed to be a preliminary note on a contact and landing case in Wales. This contained the usual gibberish, and also requests for personnel and equipment to be despatched immediately. Nothing like your ordinary tape-recorders and cameras, however! APEN go in more for Landrovers, infrared and ultraviolet sensors and stroboscopes. The arrogant tone of the directive is obviously designed to make the recipient believe that APEN really do possess this kind of equipment. They also note that their private phone link was used by the witness to this case. It seems that the aliens gave it to him, and told him to contact APEN, and APEN alone!

Cassette tapes have been sent to several people through the years. They are fairly predictable

in content. Usually they consist of recordings of radio and TV broadcasts, often involving NUFON group members, which are interspersed with frantic appeals for inter-group unity and statements about UFO hostility. These are recorded by apparently multi-lingual speakers, of both sexes, who sometimes seem to be reading out pre-prepared messages, and sometimes seem to be well on the way to inebriation.

All of this so far might make APEN appear to be a complete bunch of idiots or lunatics. It is certainly true that those who have experienced any form of contact from them (which now totals about eight to nine groups and at least as many individuals) have in the main found the APEN literature hilarious - light relief from investigation work. It was decided early on as a definite policy that NUFON would stop alluding to the APEN affair in its publication and those receiving the material would take no notice of its content. There were several pertinent reasons for this. The material was fast getting monotonous, and we had more important things to write about. There was a feeling that we should not encourage the proliferation of this material by showing that it was having any effect on its recipients. Not least we felt that we should try to force APEN's hand into the open. If they were a genuine organisation they obviously would do so; if not, we had better things to do than play along with their game. However, despite this policy, APEN did not falter, and indeed became more daring in their exploits. It is because of these later activities that I feel it time the story should be brought out into the open. Whatever the true source of the affair, the lengths to which it is prepared to go should be known by serious ufologists.

Personal contact has developed. Individuals have been contacted and asked to act as 'go-betweens'. Nobody has yet accepted the offer when faced with the realities of APEN's past record. Beyond this point, telephone calls of a threatening nature (the usual MIB, "we will put a stop to you" type) have been made. A group with offices and equipment have had these ransacked, shortly afterwards receiving a letter from APEN apologising for 'the actions of their local agent'. Such groups have also had their reputations endangered by false sighting reports being passed on to the police. APEN have also sent an article to several individuals, and asked each to forward it to certain respected UFO publications in their own names, without reference to APEN. The effects of this ploy, had it worked, would not have been hard to imagine.

Fortunately the effects of these actions are minimised because NUFON is well aware of what is going on. Those who are contacted report any new developments, and consequently a mon-

itor can be kept on the situation. Obviously it is important both to do this, and to ensure that no-one is caught alone with APEN, and also not to get at all upset by their actions - which may be the very thing they are aiming for.

Exactly who or what APEN is is hard to determine. There are a number of possibilities, some more plausible than others. No direct efforts have been made by NUFON to track them down, partly because it would seem a pointless exercise (no addresses or genuine names are given, and correspondence is posted from almost everywhere in the UK). It also seems that we might be doing just what APEN want if we channel valuable time searching haystacks for them, when we could be getting on with our other work. However, as was said at the outset, we do not know whether or not APEN are our work, and therefore it would be wrong to say that no steps have been taken. It would also be wrong to imply that no clues have been found - although for obvious reasons it is not possible to elaborate on these here. However, NUFON's policy remains the same. We protest that if APEN are genuine, then they will come out into the open, consequently we do not need to go chasing after them. Also, if they feel that they can worry and upset people by their attitude, I can assure them that most ufologists view them as ludicrous and pointless. This cannot be entirely the case, especially with the more malicious acts, but in these small number of cases APEN's performance on other matters lends absolutely no credence to the view that they are able or willing to carry out truly serious actions.

If APEN are not what they claim to be, we are faced with three alternatives. Either they are an organisation which, for some reason, is out to cause disruption within ufology (and especially NUFON) - in which case our responses are hopefully proving the ineffectiveness of this. Alternatively the whole thing is a practical joke by someone with a lot of money and very little sense - again the best response to this is to laugh at the whole affair. Or finally it is a controlled experiment by someone who wants to see the reactions of UFO organisations. To my mind this last is the most plausible, and if it is so, by now the investigators ought to have their questionnaires fully completed.

Most people involved in ufology are serious, and do not accept everything at face value, although they agree to look into the possibility of most things. There are those who do react differently to a stimulus such as this, but the value of contact via NUFON in controlling reactions is, I think, proven.

Miss Randles is a BUFORA Council member, and editor of Northern UFO News.

# THE GHOST IN THE MACHINE

## Vehicle stoppages in folklore

ROGER SANDELL

During the UFO waves of the 1950's and 1960's one of the strongest pieces of evidence for those who believed that UFOs seemed to be mechanical devices, was reports of vehicles allegedly mysteriously stopping in the presence of UFOs. A classic case of this nature is the Loch Raven Dam sighting of 1958, in which two men reported seeing a 100ft, egg-shaped object about one hundred feet above them, and stated that their car and its lights went dead as they attempted to approach it. (1)

The Condon Investigation described such cases as "one of the more puzzling aspects of UFO reports". However, examination by the investigators of a car involved in such a case showed that it had not been exposed to magnetism, as ufologists has suggested.

What neither sceptics nor believers realised at that time was that the stories of strange vehicles stoppages were much older, not only that UFOs, but than the internal combustion engine itself. Stories of this nature were told during the witch mania of the sixteenth century. One such tale tells of a carter whose vehicle became immobilised. After whipping his horses, to no avail, the cart moved when he flicked his whip against one of the wheels. Shortly after, a local witch was seen to have whiplash scars across her face. (2)

Such beliefs persisted until surprisingly recently. Eric Maples's The Dark World of Witches describes the traditions of the Canewdon area of Essex:

Until well after the First World War the tradition persisted that it was unlucky to take a wheeled vehicle into Canewdon, as it would break down. Boys believed that to cycle through Canewdon was to invite a puncture."

In the same book Maples describes how in the same area, in the first decade of this century, an elderly villager, believed to be a wizard, was credited with the ability to stop farm machines merely by looking at them.

With the decline of witch beliefs similar stories attached themselves to ghosts. One tale of the 'Screaming Skull', a relic of Bettiscombe Manor in Dorset, allegedly associated with ghostly events, states that one tenant of the manor put the skull on a cart to send it elsewhere, but that the cart would not move until the skull was removed. The 'Boggarts', ghostly beings of Lancashire folklore, were said to sit on the backs of carts and increase their weights until the cart became immovable.

One of the most interesting ghost stories of this type concerns the 'Bell Witch' poltergeist that haunted a farm in Tennessee in 1817-1821.

General Andrew Jackson was one of those attracted to the Bell homestead during the period of the haunting. As General Jackson's horse-drawn waggon approached the area the wheels suddenly seemed to freeze and the straining horses were unable to budge it. Jackson dismounted and examined the wheels and axles and was unable to find any reason for this sudden problem. As he stood there scratching his head in bewilderment a voice suddenly rang out from behind the bushes: "All right, General" the voice announced, "Let the waggon move"...To everyone's amazement the wheels began to turn again. (3)

Similar tales first began to appear in a modern context during World War II. In Britain in the early years of the war there were various 'secret weapon' rumours current, one of which would tell of a motorist driving on a remote road who found his car mysteriously halted. As he puzzled over this, a soldier (or policeman) would appear and order him to start the car, which would then work perfectly. (4)

With tales such as this, the character of the myth has changed radically. Although at a time of national emergency there was a need for rumours of miraculous deliverance, the mental climate of the period did not allow these to be explicitly supernatural, but had to imply that there was a scientific explanation. In 1914 there had been tales of angels over the Western Front, but in 1940 the rumour had to climax with the appearance of the reassuring everyday figure of the policeman.

As the fear of nuclear war grew in the 1950's and flying saucer stories began to circulate, the vehicle stoppage myth took on a new characteristic and became symbolic of a force more powerful than the technology threatening mass destruction, a force that would save humanity from itself. In the 1952 film The Day The Earth Stood Still an alien arrives in a flying saucer with a message of peace, and demonstrates his power by stopping all the world's

machines. Strikingly, this film was made before there were any factual cases of UFO vehicle stoppages.

What form will the myth take next? With the failure of the space probes to discover any evidence of intelligent life elsewhere, and the revival of interest in occultism perhaps we will see the return of explicitly supernatural vehicle stoppage stories. Already one of the more bizarre Uri Geller tales has him stopping the engine of an ocean liner by his powers, and in Carlos Castenda's *A Separate Reality* we find the following allegedly factual account of one of his meetings with Don Juan, the Indian sorcerer:

"What is sorcery, Don Juan?"  
 "Sorcery is to apply one's will to a key joint", he said. "In your car it's the spark-plug. I can apply my will to it and your car won't work."  
 Don Juan got into my car and sat down. His laughter became higher. I felt some kind of enveloping force around me.  
 "Turn on your car now," Don Juan said. I turned on the starter and stepped on the gas pedal. The starter began to grind without igniting the engine. I spent perhaps ten minutes grinding the starter. After a while Don Juan said he had released the car. It started!

#### REFERENCES:

1. VALLEE, J. "Challenge to Science". For a sceptical analysis of this case see Alan Sharp - "UFO Evidence in an American Reservoir?", MUFOB 6:1.
2. MAPLE, ERIC. "The Dark World of Witches"
3. KEEL, JOHN. "Is the EM Effect a Myth?"; FSR, Nov-Dec 1968
4. TURNER, E. S. "The Phoney War on the Home Front"

## Back Numbers

The following back-numbers of the first series of MUFOB are currently available, price 35p or 70c, including surface mail. Those marked \*\* include parts of the International Catalogue of Type I Reports.

Volume 4, Number 2; June 1971  
 Volume 4, Number 3; Summer 1971  
 Volume 4, Number 4; September 1971  
 Volume 4, Number 5; December 1971  
 Volume 4, Number 6; Winter 1971-72  
 Volume 6, Number 1; July 1973\*\*  
 Volume 6, Number 2; August 1973\*\*

Other numbers become available from time to time, and we shall advise of these when the occasion arises.

## LETTERS



Dear Mr Rimmer

As a reader of MUFOB since 1969 I feel it necessary to report both my surprise and disappointment that the Bulletin, with its sparkling new format, should waste time and effort printing arrogant, misguided reports of the type by D I Simpson. I refer of course to *Experimental UFO Hoaxing*, compiled it would seem by someone lacking certain education, and with many axes to grind.

There is on record a wealth of scientific proof that Flying Saucers exist; one only has to be open minded enough to believe in their existence. Long time researchers of the calibre of Charles Bowen, at great personal expense, painstakingly recorded thousands of strange aerial events throughout the world. Does Simpson seriously expect us to disregard this mountain of evidence because he momentarily confused researchers with a juvenile sky-lark? Neither he nor any other negative influence has ever come anywhere near to proving that Flying Saucers do not exist. It ought to be obvious by now just why this is!

Alas poor Simpson; he and his ilk will remain blinkered until They reveal all.

With any more articles like this one it will be, alas poor MUFOB.

Yours sadly

J Tomkinson  
 Ealing  
 London W5.

Dear Mr Rimmer

With regard to the article (MUFOB March 1976) by D I Simpson concerning the experimental UFO hoax engineered by SIUFOP in 1970, you may be interested to know that I had suggested both that (a) the light reported - and 'photographed' at Warminster was actually a grounded light, and (b) that the hoax had been engineered by Simpson and his colleagues, a short time after the publication of the report in *Flying Saucer Review* (16,4). We determined (a) by thorough interviews with one of the primary witnesses,

Continued on page 11

## THE CATALOGUE

AN INTERNATIONAL CATALOGUE OF TYPE I REPORTS

Compiled by Peter Rogerson

### PART 8

393 9 October 1954 1830 hrs  
 POURNOY-LA-CHETIVE (FRANCE)

Four children, Gilbert Calda (12), Daniel Hirsch (9), Jean-Pierre Hirsch (5), and Robert Maguin (16), were roller-skating when they saw a luminous object near the cemetery. It was round, about 2.5m in diameter, standing on 3 legs. A dwarf about 1.2m tall, dressed in black having a face covered with hair, and large eyes, came out and shone a blinding light at them, and said something in an unknown language. The children ran away, but looked back in time to see the object flying away, high in the sky.

(M220; France-Soir 12 Oct 54; Michel II, 154; Magonia, 54; Guieu II, 179)

394 9 October 1954 1900hrs  
 LAVOUX (FRANCE)

Roger Barrault was riding his bicycle when he suddenly saw a figure in a diving suit aiming a double beam of light at him. The individual had boots without heels and very bright eyes, walked on the ground for one minute then went into the forest. The witness was "paralysed" throughout the incident. The entity had a hairy chest and two lights, one above the other, in front of him.

(M221; Figaro, 11 Oct 54; Paris-Presse, 12 Oct 54; Michel II, 153; Magonia, 85)

395 9 October 1954 Night  
 SOUVERAN (FRANCE)

Several local people saw a luminous, spherical object land in a pasture. (M216; Oest-France, 12 Oct 54; Michel II, 154)

396 9 October 1954 2030hrs  
 BRIATEXTE (FRANCE)

On Rt N631 at 'La Caiffre', a technician, Jean-Pierre Mitte was returning from Toulouse with his two cousins when they saw two small figures the height of 11 year old children, cross the road about 5m in front of the car and jump into a pasture. Stopping at once, the witnesses saw a large convex disc take off vertically. It was about 6m in diameter, orange coloured and appeared to be "sucked up" into the sky. A local farmer, M Barthe, also saw the glowing object rising into the sky. Brown, oily spots were found at the site. (M222; Paris-Presse, Figaro, 13 Oct 54; Sud-Ouest 9 Oct 54; Michel II, 154)

397 9 October 1954 2150 hrs  
 DREUX (FRANCE)

People out hunting saw a luminous sphere take off as they approached, and fly towards the south-west. (M215; Quincy; Michel II, 152)

398 9 October 1954 2215 hrs  
 BEIRUT (LEBANON)

The local representative of a German firm, Max Favell, saw an object give off a white light, and land. It took off vertically, with a spinning motion, and was lost to sight. (M223; Journal de l'Orient, 11 Oct 54; Le Parisien, 12 Oct 54)

399 10 October 1954 (approx.)  
 MAHALLAT (IRAN)

Many farmers observed the landing of a "marvellous luminous object", hemispherical in shape, emitting multi-coloured beams. The central part appeared to be metallic. The object shot straight up suddenly and vanished while the crowd watched. (M224; FSR 13, 2; Creighton; Ettela'at 15 Oct 54)

400 10 October 1954  
 EPOISSES (FRANCE) Between Epoisses and Toutry, Daniel Grapin and Francoise Bolatre, topographers, saw a luminous sphere, 3.5m diameter on the ground near Rt N454. (M225; Quincy)

401 10 October 1954  
 QUAROUBLE (FRANCE) This was the second landing seen here by Marius Dewilde and his 4 year old son. A disc 6m diameter, about 1m high, landed on the railway tracks. 7 little men emerged and spoke in an unknown language. The craft then vanished without noise or smoke. Traces, larger than before, and symmetrical were discovered. Dewilde refused to report the case. (M226; Magonia, 18; Carrouges S, 152; France-Soir, 30 Oct 54)  
 FOR AN ACCOUNT OF THE EARLIER SIGHTING BY THIS WITNESS, SEE CASE 319 IN THIS CATALOGUE.

402 10 October 1954 0630 hrs  
 CHARMES-LA-COTE (FRANCE) Roger Thiriet, jailer at Ecouvres Detention Centre, was riding his motor-cycle, when he saw an aluminium coloured object shaped like a plate, with a dome and two portholes. It was about 2m in diameter, and 1m high. It took off immediately (M227; France-Soir, 21 Oct 54)

403 10 October 1954 1400 hrs  
 ST. GERMAIN-DE-LIVET (FRANCE) A mathematics professor, M Bon, observed a silvery disc about 7m diameter rise silently from a point about 250m from the side of the road. Spinning, it dived to the ground from an altitude of about 800m, then flew off horizontally at a "dizzying speed". (M228; France-Soir, Figaro, Liberation, Le Parisien, 14 Oct 54)

404 10 October 1954 Nightfall  
 SAILLAT-SUR-VIENNE (FRANCE) Roger Gayout

and his family saw a very bright object come very close to the ground. (M229; Figaro, 13 Oct 54; Michel II, 162)

405 11 October 1954 0130 hrs  
DONCOURT-VILLAGE (FRANCE) Farmers awakened by a whistling sound saw a flat object land near woods. It soon rose very fast, vertically, and flew away. The ground was found calcinated. Samples were taken by police officials for analysis. (M230; Figaro, 13 Oct 54)

406 11 October 1954 0300 hrs  
ACQUIGNY (FRANCE) Two motorcyclists saw a bell-shaped object hovering 1m above the Evreux-Louviers railway line. The lower part was ring-like and the object gave off reddish and greenish sparks. A burst of orange light was seen as it jumped about 10m high, then it remained motionless for about 1 hour, during which time a third witness joined the other two. The object finally turned brighter and flew away to the east. (M231; France-Soir, Figaro, 14 Oct 54; Michel II, 162)

407 11 October 1954 0415 hrs  
FONFREDE nr. CHAMBERLON FEUGEROLLES (FRANCE) Baptiste Jourdy (30), who was making his daily milk collection, was stopped as the engine and headlights of his truck died. He got out to look at the engine, and saw a large, multi-coloured object cross the road at right angles. After it had passed, the headlights came on again, and he was able to restart his truck. (M232; Liberation, Parisien, 14 Oct 54; Michel II, 157; Cramp, 212)

408 11 October 1954 0420 hrs  
LACANCHE (FRANCE) M. Labonde was driving at the intersection of D14 & D104 when he was followed by a luminous globe surrounded by a reddish glow, about 2m diameter. It stayed within 25m of the car until he reached the village, where the object swerved, climbed & disappeared. (M233; L'Aurore 13 Oct 54; Michel II, 158)

409 11 October 1954 0430 hrs  
SASSIER, Nr LA CARIE (FRANCE) Grain merchants Henri Gallois & Louis Vigneron were driving from Clamecy to Corbigny when they felt an "electric shock" as the car headlights died. They then saw a craft in a pasture 50m away. It was cylindrical, fairly thick, and 3 dwarfs were standing nearby. No light was seen except a small reddish point. Both witnesses were "paralysed" until the craft left. A third witness, Henri Chameau, had seen a lighted object fly over the woods at La Carie. (M234; Liberation, Le Parisien, 14 Oct 54; Michel II, 158)

410 11 October 1954 Dawn  
HEIMERSDORF (FRANCE) Anny Pracht, her sister Roselyne, and two other people saw a luminous object on the ground. It became fiery red, and flew away when they came near. (M235; Figaro, 13 Oct 54; Michel II, 162)

411 11 October 1954 Dawn  
BAQUAY (FRANCE) A large red object was seen flying very fast at tree-top level while cattle panicked. Three witnesses. (M236; Michel II, 162; Quinocy)

412 11 October 1954 0500 hrs  
LAVARANDE (ALGERIA) A large disc flying very low over a road scared two truck drivers, Gaston Breau and M Amoura, who stopped their petrol truck and ran away into the fields, while the object flew on towards Medea in silence. (M237; France-Soir 17 Oct 54; Dépêche de Tunisie 16 Oct 54)

413 11 October 1954 1930 hrs  
TAUIGNAC (FRANCE) Three men driving to Taupignac got out of their car to observe an intense red sphere in the sky. Then they discovered a round machine with a dome, 6m diam. giving off a yellow-red light, 200m away, at 10m altitude. It was motionless and silent. It suddenly moved horizontally for a short distance and landed behind some woods. Two witnesses went closer and saw 4 small dwarfs, 1m tall who seemed to be busy with the machine. The creatures rushed inside when the witnesses arrived within 15m. The witnesses were blinded by a sudden burst of light, blue and orange, then red. The object took off vertically at fantastic speed. (M238; Michel II, 159)

414 11 October 1954 2150 hrs  
BIRAC (FRANCE) Four persons, among them Julia Juste, Maria Barbeau, and Marion Le Tanneur, of Jarnac were driving along Rt D14, when they saw two luminous spheres flying in the same direction, at a low altitude. The car stalled and the headlights went out. Having stopped and manoeuvred in mid air, the larger object took on a deep red colour, which turned to an intense white light with a red aura. They then both appeared to land in the valley of the Charente River. The witnesses did not wait. (M239; Michel II, 160; Cramp, 213)

415 11 October 1954 2200 hrs  
MONTBAZENS (FRANCE) A round craft, 4m in diameter, landed in a pasture. It emitted a powerful red light, and took off with a formidable acceleration when the witnesses (garage owner M Carrière and his son; M Gardelle, a farmer; M Ginestre, a shoemaker; and two others) came close to it. Gardelle felt an "electric shock". (M240; Parisien, 13 Oct 54; Paris-Presse, 14 Oct 54; Michel II, 162)

416 12 October 1954 Afternoon  
MAMORA FOREST (MOROCCO) A French engineer driving to Port Lyautey saw a dwarf about 1.2m tall enter an object which soon took off. The little man was wearing silver overalls. (M241; La Croix 16 Oct 54; Lor II, 95; Carrouges, 105)

417 12 October 1954 2100 hrs  
ORCHAMPS (FRANCE) A farmer, M Beuc, saw a small pilot enter an object. It glided over

the road for 30m then rose rapidly. (M242; Michel II, 167; Carrouges, 98)

418 12 October 1954 Evening  
MONTLUÇON (FRANCE) A railway employee, M Laugere, saw a torpedo-shaped metallic craft on the ground near a petroleum tank. An individual covered with hair was standing nearby, uttering sounds that were not understood. The witness went to get his friends, but the thing disappeared in the meantime. (M243; Paris-Presse, Liberation, 15 Oct 54; Carrouges II, 141; Michel II, 167)

419 12 October 1954 2230 hrs  
LEGUEVIN (FRANCE) Jean Marty (42), a mechanic, was in his shop when he saw a luminous disc, about 6.5m diameter and 2.5m thick, land. He tried to approach it, but the craft rose vertically and silently at amazing speed. (M244; La Croix, 16 Oct 54)

420 12 October 1954 2230hrs  
ST MARIE D'HERBLAY (FRANCE) Gilbert Lelay (13) saw a phosphorescent cigar in a pasture, and a man near it wearing a grey suit. He held a flashing sphere, and told Gilbert, in French, not to touch it. He went inside the craft, which flew in loops and vanished. (M254; Carrouges, 103; Magonia, 147)

421 12 October 1954 2245 hrs  
DOMPIERRE-LES-TILLEULS (FRANCE) A businessman, Michel Vielle, was on Rt N471 between Frasnes and Pontarlier when he saw a circular flying craft giving off a yellowish and purple light. Losing altitude, the craft came very close to the ground, changed its course to southwest and rose again in the sky. Vielle was travelling with a friend at the time, and both saw the object. (M246; Quinocy; Michel II, 167)

422 12 October 1954 2330 hrs  
VIELMUR (FRANCE) Roger Ramonde, a night-watchman, saw a great light, and noticed an oval object which landed 300m away, looking like a fiery orange ball. It illuminated a vineyard for nearly 3 hours, then assumed a vertical position, rose slowly, hovered 30m above the ground for a few seconds, and took off at fantastic speed. (M247; Sud-Ouest, 12 Oct 54; Michel II, 168)

423 13 October 1954 1930 hrs  
CROCQ (FRANCE) At Donjon de Montlaur, 5 people, among them J. Dubois, saw a round craft manoeuvre and give off a blinding light. It had some openings or portholes, and seemed to land far from the witnesses. (M248)

424 13 October 1954 1935 hrs  
BOURRASOLES (FRANCE) Messrs Olivier and Perano and a third man saw a reddish disc about 4m diameter with a small being close by about 1.2m tall, wearing a diving suit. "His head was large with respect to the rest of his body and he had two enormous eyes. The suit

was bright and shiny like glass." The craft was surrounded by a sort of misty glow. One of the men went within 20m of it and was paralysed. The craft took off, throwing him to the ground, and rose very fast. (M249; La Croix, 16 Oct 54; Paris-Presse, Liberation, 15 Oct 54)

425 14 October 1954  
ST AMBROIX (FRANCE) Several witnesses saw seven small beings flee into a phosphorescent object when they were approached. It took off immediately. Unknown seeds were allegedly found at the spot. (M250; La Croix, 16 Oct 54)

426 14 October 1954 0630 hrs  
SHAMSHABAD (IRAN) A man coming out of his house saw a luminous object resembling a star, 100m away. Approaching within 20m he observed it was an object 5m long, near which a "short young man" was standing on a circular piece of metal, laughing at the witness's terrified expression. The craft then took off at an unbelievable speed. (M251; FSR 13, 2; Ettela'at, 15 Oct 54)

427 14 October 1954 1530 hrs  
LEWARDE (FRANCE) A miner, Basimir Starovskii (33) was about to enter Erchin Forest which lies 700m NW of Erchin itself, when he saw 4m away a being about 1.2m tall. The dwarf had a large head, with protruding slit eyes with a very small iris. The nose was flat and the lips thick and red. The being was wearing a skullcap, from under which long hair fell down to the shoulders. The body was bulky and covered in fur. Before the witness could think of stopping it, the creature had vanished. (M252; Anatomy, 153; Magonia, 18; FSR 10, 1; Carrouges S, 252)

428 14 October 1954 1815 hrs  
BIOT (FRANCE) Municipal employee Jose Casella was driving home when he saw in front of him on the road an oval-shaped aluminium like object about 5.5m diameter and 1m high. As he applied the brakes, the object took off at very high speed. Several people confirmed the sighting. The disc was grey, supporting a dome, and emitted a soft whistling sound. It took off when Casella was only 6m away. (M253; Paris-Presse, France-Soir, 17 Oct 54; Carrouges S, 99, 116; Guieu II)

429 14 October 1954 Nightfall  
ANGLES (FRANCE) A farmer saw a bright object which came almost to the ground. When he tried to approach it, the object produced an intense "screen of light" and vanished without a noise. Several people in Angles observed the scene. (M254; La Croix, 16 Oct 54; Michel II, 177)

430 14 October 1954 Nightfall  
MERAL (FRANCE) A farmer observed an orange sphere land and went near it. He found it was shaped like a flattened dome, 5.5m diameter, & gave off a blinding light which illuminated the countryside for about 200m. It was trans-

parent, and a dark figure could be seen inside. After remaining at ground level for 10 mins. it flew north, while a bright cloud slowly fell to the ground at the site. When the witness arrived home he found his clothes covered with a white film of adhesive substance, not unlike paraffin wax. (M255; La Croix 16 Oct 54; Michel II, 176)

431 14 October 1954 Nightfall  
ST GERMAIN-DU-BOIS (FRANCE) Marcel Lon-jarret was walking in the country when a peculiar light attracted his attention, and he went to investigate. Behind a hedge at the side of a wheat field he saw a luminous, orange red dome, motionless, just above the ground. He watched it, then returned home. Next day no trace could be found. (M256; Michel II, 175; Quinsey)

432 14 October 1954 1930 hrs  
CHAZEY WOOD (FRANCE) South of Gueugnon, Messrs Jeannet & Garnier, travelling on Rt D23 saw a reddish fireball fly low over their car as their engine and headlights failed. When the object passed these re-started. (M257; Michel II, 175; Anatomy, 130)

433 14 October 1954 Nightfall  
ST ROMAIN-SOUS-GOURDON (FRANCE) Mr B. was motorcycling from St-Romain to Brosse-Thillot when his motor stopped. A brilliant light revealed a circular object "like a plate upside-down" about 50m ahead. When B. retreated his cycle began to function again. (M259; Michel II, 175; Anatomy, 130)

434 14 October 1954 Nightfall  
CHAZEY WOOD (FRANCE) Andre Cognard, driving from Gueugnon, was at the top of a slope when he was so dazzled by a brilliant light that he had to stop. The light came from a disc which flew over his car in a westerly direction. (M258; Michel II, 175; Anatomy 130)

435 14 October 1954 2010 hrs  
THIEULLOY-LA-VILLE (FRANCE) On the road between this town and Beauvais, M Covemaker saw an object fly over his car as the headlights died. It went towards the north, seemingly following a train. (M260)

436 14 October 1954 2050 hrs  
CIRY-LE-NOBLE (FRANCE) M Mouillon, an engineer at Genelard, say, between Ciry and Montoieu-les-Mines, an enormous object surrounded by green flame, descended rapidly to the ground. (M259; Anatomy, 130)

437 Mid-October 1954 0300 hrs  
BINGHAMPTON (NEW YORK) While walking across the Ely Golf Course and recreation park Larry White encountered a globe with a concave wing around the centre. The craft was standing on a landing gear resembling "a lever and rod assembly with something like ball bearings set in the part that made contact with the ground" The witness conversed with two occupants of

the machine standing beside it. The communicated alleged details of the propulsion system and their home planet. (FS 77, 30)

438 15 October 1954  
PMRPIGNAN (FRANCE) Near the swimming pool in St Assisole, Damien Figueres (56) was walking with his dogs when a reddish, luminous sphere landed 30m away and an individual in a diving suit walked around it. The dogs barked at him. He boarded the machine, and it flew away in silence. (M261; Paris-Presse, France-Soir, 17 Oct 54; Carrouges, 120)

439 15 October 1954  
BOARIA (ITALY) A farmer leading cows to a pond suddenly saw an object fly over his house. The cows panicked and ran away, throwing a girl to the ground, while the object emitted a burst of light. The witness ran to the house and fainted; three other people saw the craft depart. The egg-shaped object was dark and surrounded by blue flame. It flew at an altitude of 15m and emitted intense heat. A small pond was discovered dried-up, and haystacks caught fire as it flew over, while the cattle suffered burns. (Il Tempo, 16 Oct 54; Il Momento Sera, Giornale d'Italia, 17 Oct 54; Le Soir, 20 Oct 54; Planter\* 104)

440 15 October 1954 0340 hrs  
ST PIERRE HALTE (FRANCE) A baker saw a brilliant yellow craft descend rapidly and land on railway tracks. It was shaped like a mushroom, about 4m diameter, 2m high. (M263; La Croix, 16 Oct 54; Michel II, 180)

441 15 October 1954 1300 hrs  
LIVINO (ITALY) An ovoid object made a pass over a range of trees, two caught fire. (M264; Il Tempo, Il Messaggero, 16-17 Oct 54)

The data for the 1954 French wave is largely taken from newspaper accounts. The various newspapers give different dates for the same event, and give varieties of witnesses' names. As Michel, Vallee and Carrouges all usually refer to batches of newspapers, it is not possible to identify which papers are the source of which data. Therefore I have decided not to give individual notes to variations in date or witnesses' names during this period. Unless otherwise stated, data as to these particulars is from Vallee's *Magonia* Catalogue, which is probably the most accurate in this respect. Where I have departed from the data given in *Magonia*, I have explained this in a note. PR.

Information for, and comments on, this catalogue should be sent to:

PETER ROGERSON, 8 BRADDON AVENUE, URMSTON, MANCHESTER, M31 1UE, ENGLAND

# A Panorama of Ufological Visions

PETER ROGERSON

a Mr Stephen Hall, following these with a visit to the site; where we took colour, day-time transparencies from Cradle Hill. However (b) was purely conjectural, so we withheld publication of such allegations. I did, however express my doubts about the photographs to Charles Bowen, editor of FSR, on October 3rd 1970, at a meeting of BUFORA, but my comments were met with general scepticism and Bowen seemed to prefer a more esoteric interpretation. This, I think, adds further weight to David Simpson's comments, and I am in general agreement with the summary of his article.

It would seem an elementary point to suggest that photographs showing an image markedly different from that seen visually were not in fact of the same 'object', but we can see from the comments of the experts consulted by FSR that the 'will to believe' often transcends logical thought.

Yours sincerely Mark Stenhoff, FRAS  
Egham  
Surrey

## Editorial - continued

Experimental hoaxing is also an established technique in educational research. In one widely quoted experiment teachers are told that certain children in a class have high IQs, and that others are below average. In fact both groups consist of children with a similar range of intelligence. After a period the children's IQs are measured again, and those of the allegedly 'clever' children have risen more than the so-called 'dull' ones. In fact, what has happened is that the teachers have given more attention to those thought to be the most 'promising', at the expense of the others. This is something many people might guess would happen, but it is worth having it verified experimentally, and possibly quantitatively.

Increasingly many aspects of ufology are seen to belong in the realm of the social sciences, and the experimental techniques of those sciences must be applied to them. It is important to have an understanding of the ways in which different visual stimuli are interpreted by witnesses, investigators, and the media. The only way this can be done accurately is by having total control over, or knowledge of, the original stimulus. The alternatives all prove unsatisfactory. It may be thought possible to study the manner in which 'solved' cases have been interpreted. However to do this with any degree of accuracy one must have a completely verified solution, and not be content with merely a high degree of probability. Experience shows that it is virtually impossible to get any unanimity between researchers for a solution to any widely reported incident.

One might also hope to study the interpretations put on 'genuine' hoaxes (ie. ones perpetrated by

Continued on page 15

When the last article I wrote for MUFOB was being written in the Autumn of 1973 a great wave was about to break in the USA. That wave at a time of great crisis, marked a turning point in our perception of the UFO phenomena. I look back on those days as the last days of innocence, when one could believe that some simple, rational, explanation of the phenomena was possible. In the two and a half years since I have corresponded with a former doyen of 'scientific ufology' who believes that all intellectual speculation on the subject is pointless; with a ufologist who has faced Magonia, and perhaps seen behind its mask; with members of the 'Invisible College', and UFO researchers who feel there is an answer round the corner. John Rimmer and I have spoken with a young woman who has encountered a UFO and its occupants in her bedroom, I have heard from a man who believes disc jockeys are reading his mind, and entered the boundary of a UFO flap area. I have spoken there with a 'silent contactee' to whom has been revealed the secrets of the Cosmos, which he may not reveal; listened to tales of miracles and poltergeists, of a young girl driven almost to suicide by the psychic impressions which overwhelm her.

Look at the films of the two years past: *Earthquake*, *Towering Inferno*, *Jaws*, *The Exorcist* - visions of a chaos to come. Who, in the days of innocence, would have believed that the whole of Western rationalist tradition could be threatened by a movie; or that a man could kill his wife, inspired by a medieval world view. In no sense can this dark artistic vision be separated from the matrix of folklore in which it is germinated.

1973 was the year of Uri Geller, that strange charismatic figure who set the spoons spinning, bent forks, and read minds. Geller incarnated our secret desires of omnipotence, the power to dominate things to our will, to liberate ourselves from the laws of physics - and other rules too? Uri was the voice of SPECTRA, the idiot computer god of our worst fears. The computer is god, the mad computer god rules our poor alienated lives. The game, the experi-

ment, the rat in the maze become the symbols of the new humanity "beyond freedom and dignity" in a universe where the ultimate secret is an absurd scientific formula

As rats in the maze, Hickson and Palmer were imprisoned in the strange inhuman machine, where the all-seeing eye of God or Big Brother surveyed them. 'laboratory rats' is what Dr Harder said, rats in the maze to be examined by the robots of the dark future.

And 1973 was the year of Bigfoot, the archaic force that resides in the recesses of our soul. He comes with the UFOs, too. The law of gravity is shattered, the dream laughs at us. Bigfoot comes with trickster god raven on his shoulder.

A new rumour arises, from Utah to Rhodesia - a young couple driving in some deserted place enter a strange shadow, where all the streets are deserted, strange figures prowl the landscape. The journey is into the badlands, a wasteland of the soul, where the sun never rises. The car behind you has no driver but eyes are on you. Or you find yourself in a strange alien landscape, the sky all wrong. A sort of machine speaks in your mind, telling of wonders untold. But no bird is in the sky, and no human figure to be seen.

The day of judgement is at hand, next year if not this. But we are the prophets, there is a paradise awaiting you in the hollow womb of mother earth, and you are the chosen ones. the flood is coming, but we are the emissaries of the space brothers, say the two. Like the cosmic twins, they will lead the chosen ones to the new place of emergence, a paradise derived from a syncretistic vision of Kurt Vonnegut and L Ron Hubbard. Kurt Vonnegut - Slaughter House Five - remember Charles Manson. Rumour has it that some who follow The Two will never reach paradise, they lie beneath desert sand.

Helicopters fly the night sky, what do they carry - terrorists who will blow up our cities, foreigners who will take away 'our way of life', Russian agents who stir up trouble, or Satanists who will drink the blood of our cattle. Whatever, it bodes no good, fear is contagious. Maybe the greenies will come in time? Another rumour, the real reason that the Condon Committee failed: a strange being landed in a New Mexico airfield, and has already established communication with leading scientific and military figures. Yet another rumour: alien forces have already siezed control of our centres of power, an outside force directs our history. Rumours, dreams of alienation and loss of control. Time is short, the clock on the wall of AVB's spaceship has no hands. "What time is it" asks the spaceman. "2.30", the witness replies. "You lie, it is 4.30". "I know they're spacemen", says Cathie Rogers, "They touch their watches and the memories

come back". The evening is nearer than you think.

The poetry of the absurd: a ufologist hands round a photograph of a cog-wheel in a flower bed. A hoax? or unconscious art? Another ufologist has a photograph of a rock: "Can't you see the faces on the rock?". A strange metal sphere lands on a Yorkshire moor, inside is a scroll. By some magical means it is deciphered to reveal a pseudo-scientific cosmic scenario. A contactee is taken from a hilltop, shown around the solar system, then deposited at his back-door. A few years earlier he was a central character in a poltergeist case. He is levitated, a voice speaks through him: "I am monk who has left something undone." Levitation and ascents to cosmic regions are traditional feats of the shaman; our contactee is a shaman and healer.

Ghosts walk through walls, poltergeists throw chairs. A giant flying saucer lands on a bridge, which spans a river haunted by a phantom ferry, near a road on which a white lady walks, and a phantom rider rides. The building is haunted, a shadow crosses a girl's mind, the air goes cold. Like a shadow obscuring consciousness, a shadow across the sunlight.

We come from Kansas - everywhere, says the airship captain. Tomorrow Cuba. Cuba is fighting for the new world against the old, the future is coming, liberation is at hand. We are free, we can fly, we can drop bombs, napalm. The airship people are nice people, an old man, a couple and a child... or are they? They are talking about a new gun, 60,000 rounds a minute. They begin to look different: Japs, the Yellow Peril. Then they are very different, angels or devils, butchers. Perhaps that is not the road to freedom after all...

In the quiet of the country the ship of souls lands, Adam and Eve as they were before the fall. They are a celestial couple. Perhaps they are the sky father and the earth mother, a vision of the eternal counterpointing, the fall into chaos. The ship of souls comes from a unknown country - "The Mountains of Montezuma", there is a hint of another liberation, ancient America is about to throw off its colonial history. "We are the lost tribes of Israel, we live at the South Pole", a lost part of our humanity returns.

"I am from Venus", says the visitor, the messenger from the morning and evening star, guardian of the boundary between night and day, the conscious and the unconscious. The watcher at the threshold is a symbol of transcendence. Only by transcending the gulf between the conscious and the unconscious aspects of the psyche can men find a solution, warns Jerome Clark. Otherwise the Dionysian aspects of our spirit will sweep aside our safe, rational world. Humanity is on the brink of a chasm, says Charles Muses... a flying saucer hovers

above... our only hope. "Do you want a lift?"

The vision of Fatima, the great Earth Mother, Isis, Pachamama the lady of the corn, lady of creation and destruction. The sun spins in the sky, falls to earth - a dance of fertility the lord of heaven torn from his high place. Pheeton having lost control of the power that is beyond his cope. In the name of Fatima the armies march: Salazar, Franco, the Spanish Civil War, the Legions of the Virgin. In the name of Fatima the lords of misrule burn up Europe. In the name of Fatima the Ustasis of Croatia create to most barbaric regime in all history. As I write this I begin to wonder if the final "blessing" of Fatima will be the race war which may engulf all Africa.

I have a vision, says Idi Amin, I have had a call from Allah; a great mission has been entrusted to me, a UFO has landed on Lake Uganda; this is a confirmation of my mission. I know when I shall die, until that appointed hour I am indestructable.

"A great ball of fire came from the sky, it entered my body, then I saw all things clearly, as if from a great height. Thus I knew that I was to be a shaman". The durne fire, bringer of the gifts of tongues and healing, the beam of light which struck Uri Geller, or Edgar Cayce. "I saw a light through the wall - I was afraid 'cause I thought it was burglars, but they said they were from Christ".

When I was a child of two I had a dream. I dreamed there was a sort of light on the wall and a voice was talking in my head. No memory remains of what was said, but I awoke in terror, and the vision had remained ever since.

When he was a young child the Polish medium, Iduaki, retreated into a sort of tent made of household furniture. There a great mole came and initiated him into the mole-kingdom. When his playmates went with him into the tent/womb they heard strange knockings and voices.

Celia Green and Charles McCreary have proposed a new theory of apparitions - not only is the apparition the hallucination, but so is the whole experience; they argue there is no essential difference between apparitional and "out of the body" experiences.

A couple drive through Yorkshire. They see in the early hours a sort of glow in a field by the road. They stroll out to investigate. Only a few yards away is a huge cylinder, "like a melon". Suddenly an opening appears, giving off a light "like a sustained photographers flash". They run away and drive off. During this experience they noticed a strange thing: there was an absolute silence, no night sounds at all. This little commented feature appears in UFO story after story.

By now many readers must be wondering what on earth all that was about. It was an attempt to define the scope of what the UFO phenomenon has become. I am not saying that the stories and extracts above are 'true' in the sense that the scientist in his laboratory uses the word. Rather they are of the truth which is expressed in myth, dream, art and poetry. I further argue that UFO researchers who debate as to whether a certain story is 'true' or 'false' are posing a false dichotomy. I think that hoax, 'lies', fiction, and dreams may contain on occasion a 'higher' truth than historical reality. I will also argue that we should evaluate contact stories, for example, as naive art, rather than evidence for the intervention of space people, and that the failure to recognise this has led greatly to the sterile acrimony surrounding the subject.

Thus those writers who burn up pages of ink on arguing as to whether the claims of such charismatic figures as Uri Geller or Arthur Shuttlewood are 'true' or 'false' are asking the wrong questions. The real questions we should be asking are: "What is the appeal of such people?" and "What effects do the myth-dreams they weave have on us and our culture?"

For myself, I think that Charles Muses and Jerome Clark are correct, and that the UFO is a bridge across the chasm. Not in the literal sense that nice space people are going to rescue us, but in a symbolic sense. The UFO appears to be a symbol of the "transcendence of opposites", the mediator between the conscious and the unconscious aspects of our psyche. It offers a way out of the twin nightmares of either a sterile, soulless 'scientific future', or a return to barbarism that the success of The Exorcist and its imitators has shown to be possible.

I sympathise with those UFO researchers who argue that we must not dirty our hands with stories such as 'The Two', or the schoolboys who claim to have encountered monsters in deserted railway tunnels, (on the grounds that such stories bring ridicule on the subject) but I must reluctantly disagree with them. I am forced to the view that we should consider such subliminal rumours as constituting a core of the phenomenon.

A vision in the night; the playground rumours of schoolchildren; the dream of a seer, the songs of a folk-singer; the ravings of a madman; the adventures of Everyman, unbidden and fearsome, what can it all mean? The only guide left to us is the saying of a Bushman to van der Post: "A dream is dreaming us". Maybe we are both the Dreamer and the Dream?

A bibliography of sources for themes referred to in this article is given on page sixteen.

# BOOKS

## III

SAGAN, Carl. (ed) Communication with Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence (CETI). MIT Press, Cambridge, Mass., and London. £3.80 (\$6.90) ISBN 0 262 69037 3

This is the proceedings of a conference on the subject indicated in the title, sponsored jointly by the American and Soviet Academies of Sciences, held in Russia in September 1971.

The conference was mainly concerned with two questions: the probability of the existence of extra-terrestrial civilizations, and possible techniques which could be employed in an attempt to detect them or contact them.

Sagan states that there are a number of ways of formulating the problem posed by the first question and the simplest, devised by F. D. Drake, is to write the number of extant communicating civilizations in our galaxy as the product of seven factors:

$$N = R_* \cdot f_p \cdot n_e \cdot f_l \cdot f_i \cdot f_o \cdot L$$

where  $R_*$  is the rate of star formation averaged over the lifetime of the galaxy, in units of numbers of stars per year;  $f_p$  is the fraction of stars which have planetary systems which are suitable for life;  $f_l$  is the fraction of such planets on which life actually occurs;  $f_i$  is the fraction of such planets on which, after the origin of life, intelligence evolves;  $f_o$  is the fraction of such planets of which the intelligent beings develop a communicative phase; and  $L$  is the mean lifetime of such technological civilizations.

The scientists at the Conference considered each of these factors in great detail. The most interesting factor for most people will be  $f_l$ , concerning the origin of life. It seems to be generally agreed that there must be many other planets where conditions are suitable for the evolution of life as we understand it on Earth. It has also been established that on such planets the formation of the complex organic compounds necessary to living organisms is an inevitable natural process. It is also inevitable that combinations of these compounds will get together, by a process known as 'coacervation', so that they can react with one another and form even more complex molecules. What is not at present understood, however, is how such conditions can lead to the evolution of self-maintaining, self-rep-

licating systems which we call living organisms. Given the right conditions, is the emergence of life highly improbable, quite likely, or virtually certain? Or is it so extremely improbable that life on this planet is unique? Biochemistry has not yet reached the stage where there can be any reasonable assessment of this probability, so we can only speculate.

Most of the other factors in the equation are also highly speculative, as we have only one example - our own planet and civilisation - on which to base our estimates. However, readers may find it instructive to play around with the equation, using their own scientific knowledge and common-sense to assign reasonable values to the various factors.

Even if we assume the existence of extra-terrestrial civilizations we have the problem of how to detect them or contact them. Radio or even lasers are considered the main possibilities, but the scientists appreciate that other civilizations may employ more advanced or more subtle means of communication which are beyond our present ability to detect.

This book is recommended to all who like to speculate on the possibility of intelligent life elsewhere in the universe.

- John Harney

WHITE, Peter. The Past is Human. (Angus & Robertson, £3.80)

It is perhaps inevitable that books refuting the claims of von Däniken and his confrères shall be written in a more sober style, less amenable to those who take their information on such matters in easily consumed nuggets of sensation. So it is with this book, to a disappointing degree. Curiously, like its major predecessor on the same theme, Some Trust In Chariots, it is an Australian production, its author being Lecturer in Pre-History at the University of Sydney.

Its method of refutation is sound, emphasising the continuity of human history as revealed by the archaeological evidence, and demonstrating the absence of any sudden 'surge' in technological development. Most of the major 'mysteries' are dealt with - pyramids, Nazca, rock paintings, etc - and shown to evolve naturally from their cultural backgrounds. The treatment is broad, and the fallacies in the Dänikenesque books are not refuted individually, (for one thing there's too many of them) leaving those who are all too ready to miss the point free to say 'Ah, yes! But what about.....?', jumping on some point that is missed.

Unlike Some Trust..., it is content just to 'put the record straight', rather than launch a reasoned attack on the dangers of the kind

of sloppy thinking epitomised by the books it decries.

Solid stuff then, and readable and interesting, but for a good fight-back I recommend Some Trust In Chariots, by E W Castle and B B Thiering (Baily Bros. & Swinfen, 1973)

- John Rimmer

HAINING, Peter. The Great English Earthquake. (Robert Hale, £4.50)

Of interest in its own right as an account of the most destructive earthquake recorded in the British Isles, which devastated parts of East Anglia in 1884, this book also records instances of fire-balls preceeding the 'quake, such as have received wide attention in the UFO literature, and some interesting Fortean coincidences and portents. Perhaps not one for the ufologist to buy, but borrow it from your local library.

- John Rimmer

## NOTES, QUOTES & QUERIES



### Winged Wierdos

Following the clipping on giant birds in Texas reprinted in last issue's Notes, Quotes and Queries, we have heard from John Keel amongst others, that there has recently been a spate of such sightings in the States. Fortean Times (see below) reports a curious 'Mothman' type case in Cornwall. We have held over an article by Nigel Watson on the subject of Winged Creatures, intended for this issue, and hope in our Autumn issue to do a run-down of cases of this type. If any of our American readers can send us cuttings or notes on the US cases we would be most grateful

### Change of Title

No sooner do we give a mention to Bob Rieckard's The News, than he changes the title. A transparent device to force us into giving him a second mention this issue. It's now called Fortean Times, but all other details are the same - Annual subscription £3 for six issues, from Bob at Post Office Stores, Aldermaston, Berkshire. All good stuff.

### Nostalgia Corner

After such modern complexities of ufology as APEN, Mothman, MIB, and the rest of the para-psychological menagerie, it came as a breath of fresh-air this week to meet what looks like

a good old Spaceman! An Italian correspondent sent the accompanying illustration (touched-up a little from his photo-copy) and caption, (translated from the Italian by your monoglot editor) without any further comment or explanation.



"ASHTAR SHERAN, Commander in Chief of the Extraterrestrial Space Fleet. He comes from the planet 'Metharia' situated near the constellation (sic) 'Alpha Centuri'."

### Editorial - continued

individuals or small groups for their own gratification) which have been revealed by diligent research or confession. Her one at least has a reasonable chance of accurately determining the details of the original stimulus; but there is still an incredible resistance by ufologists, especially those connected with the investigation of the case, to admit that the unmasking, or even the confession, is genuine. Scoriton and the Alex Birch photos are classics of this kind.

Therefore, if a researcher wishes to study in detail the reactions of witnesses and interpretations of investigators to any particular 'UFO sighting' it seems inevitable that the researcher is going to have to be the author of that original visual or photographic phenomenon. In doing so, such a researcher is not embarking on a new and murky path in scientific method. The experiments I described above are particularly controversial, this is why they are widely known. But the techniques of 'experimental hoaxing' are widely used in the behavioural sciences, where they are seen as valid instruments of analysis.

Perhaps it would be better if, instead of throwing up their arms in horror, ufologists were to examine these techniques and try to form some consensus of opinion on their use, and decide where limits, if any, need to be drawn.

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I have not quoted directly from the above sources. The purpose of this piece was not reportage, but to create an impressionistic word-picture of the whole panorama of the UFO vision. This is a new, and experimental treatment of the subject

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